

Nate Melek

Minnetonka

2012 MVP

Class A

In his own words: Seriously, I don't know who throws a no-hitter in the state tournament and then follows it up three days later with a seven-inning shutout game and gets co-MVP because that guy (Shallenberger) just hits bombs and bombs and bombs and comes to play. He says, "You can keep the plaque Melek." I'm like, "Oh, thanks bud." I can't believe they gave him co when I did that. I'm like come on man, can't I get something of my own here? No, I love the guy. Great group of guys.

It was our opening game for the state tournament. Obviously, being a competitor, it's not really just like any other game because you're competing for the trophy. I wasn't gunning for the MVP. I just wanted to do my job. It's kind of who I was. I'd show up when I was pitching, I'd get locked in and those were the types of days that you don't really know if everything is working until you are in the bullpen. I felt good, I felt loose. I like those situations where you can rise to the top. We knew we had a target on our back, just being the Minnetonka Millers and the amount of state titles that we had over the history of the program. People want to beat us.

That game there was good communication between me and my catcher. He knew what was working, I knew what was working, we weren't shaking a lot off. All four of my pitches were working and we were hitting spots. We were mixing it up but we came out and established the fastball right from the start. Once we had that, things were working smoothly (Minnetonka 10, River Pirates 0). I said let's not throw an asterisk next to it because it was only seven innings. I literally didn't know that I had a no-hitter. I was just shocked and everybody was up in arms and couldn't believe it.

I knew I was going to beat them but as far as the MVP award, it was obviously because of the 14 innings and zero runs. The no-hitter came as a little bit of a surprise, because I was expecting to go the seventh and eighth too. But the 10-run rule was in force.

The second game that I pitched, the bats were just hot. That always gives a pitcher a good feeling or a sense of comfort. You just jump out and you don't have to be too fine, just trust your stuff (Minnetonka 16, St. Paul Capitals 0). I've always been a guy that is going to come straight at you. We jumped on them from the start to the end of the state tournament. We just stayed hot. You could tell the bats were just locked in.

It was an honor to win that award. Even to split it with Shelly. I don't know if you have his stats but I know he must have had a great tourney. I know it was something crazy. That's just what the guy did. He did it all the time.



- Nate Melek, Minnetonka, 2012
- Pitcher
- Won two games
- Pitched a no-hitter
- Pitched 13 innings, allowing no runs (0.00 ERA)
- Struck out 13
- Allowed only four hits for the tournament

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